

[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

not expedient to discuss this question on the floor of the House at the present moment. The honourable members may take it from me that the Government will give the matter that attention which its importance demands and that they will do all that lies in their power to advance the interests of this country.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member whether the Government propose to accept the final decisions of the conference?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : I cannot say now, Sir, what the Government propose to do. But Government will do all that lies in their power to advance the interests of the State. I cannot say whether it will be necessary for Government to consult the House before they come to a final decision. The matter, as the honourable members are aware, does not lie entirely with this Government. There are the Government of Cochin, the Government of Travancore, the Government of India and the Madras Government who are all interested parties in this question.

Mr. A. N. Visvanatha Pillai : മൂന്നു ഗവണ്മെന്റുകൾ പണം ചെലവാക്കിട്ട് നാലുഗവണ്മെന്റുകൾക്കായി വീതിക്കണമെന്നു ഞോ പറയുന്നതു്?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഞങ്ങൾ തന്നെ ഇപ്പോൾ പറയാനായിട്ടില്ല. അത് ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നതേയുള്ളൂ. ഇപ്പോൾ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി പറയുന്നതു് നമുക്കു ഗുണകരമായിരിക്കുമോ എന്നു് സംശയമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ കാര്യം വാദപ്രതിവാദത്തിനു് കൊണ്ടുവരാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നല്ലതെന്ന് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നു.

Regarding the question raised by Mr. Visvanatha Pillai about the development of ports, I may say that Government have been doing all that is possible in the matter. Regarding the Alleppey port the House knows that, during the last year or two, the facilities for shipping were greatly reduced on account of the sand accretion and Government spent a considerable amount of money in removing the sand. Government also obtained the services of an expert, Mr. Ash, and on the basis of his report they are taking action to extend the pier in order that the facilities that existed originally might be restored. Government have already placed the order for the necessary materials and I think some of them have already arrived. Probably in the course of about six months it

may be possible to carry out this extension and restore, as I said, the facilities for shipping, which existed at Alleppey before the sand accretion.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Is the port of Trivandrum bound by the provisions of the Interportal Convention?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : Yes. The Interportal Convention applies to the whole of Travancore. As regards the other ports also Government want to do whatever is possible for their development. But there is financial stringency. When funds permit Government would take up the question of improving the other ports as well.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know from the member whether the Travancore Durbar has taken any move to get the Interportal Convention revised?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : Well, Sir, that is a very big question. I think it was included in the Memorandum sent up to the Davidson Committee. All these big questions have been considered in connection with the future constitution of the Indian Federation. Probably they will be considered by the Government of India before the Federation is brought into being, and we may hope that, at one time or other, these complicated problems will be solved to the advantage of Travancore. I cannot prophesy now when that is going to be or how it is going to be done. You may rest assured that the Government will do all that is possible to secure the advantages and benefits that are naturally and legitimately due to Travancore. Sir, I do not want to say anything more on this subject.

Chairman : I put Demand XXI—Ports for Rs. 21,045. Does the House grant the Demand?

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXII—STATE CHARITIES.

Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai : Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 11,303 under Demand XXII—State Charities.

Chairman : I put Demand XXII—State Charities for Rs. 11,303.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXIII—CURRENCY AND MINT.

Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai : Sir I move for a grant of Rs. 2,832 under Demand XXIII—Currency and Mint.

Chairman: I put Demand XXIII—Currency and Mint for Rs. 2,832.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXIV—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 2,77,640 under Demand XXIV—Stationery and Printing.

Chairman: I put Demand XXIV—Stationery and Printing for Rs. 2,77,640.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXV—CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 79,541 under XXV Co-operative Department.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: Sir, I raise a point of order. The Demand is put down in the name of Mr. M. Govinda Pillai. Can the Demand be moved by any other member?

Chairman: The Chair permits it.

Mr. M. Govindan: Sir, I oppose the Demand. My object in opposing the Demand is not that there should be no co-operative work at all in Travancore. I only wish to bring to the notice of the Government that a sum of Rs. 10,000 provided under that head for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes is quite inadequate. My friend Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi has brought to the notice of the Government the inadequacy of this sum when he was discussing about the general administration. My point is this. The details under which it is proposed to ameliorate the condition of the depressed classes are (i) construction of wells, (ii) construction of buildings and (iii) organisation of co-operative societies. Now, Sir, the organisation of co-operative societies in Travancore has not been taken such advantage of even by more advanced classes. In the case of the depressed classes I do not think that they are going to derive benefit from this. The mere fact that the Protector of Depressed Classes is working under the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, a bare accident, seems to supply the only connection, the only factor that links co-operation with this limited amount that has been sanctioned for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes.

The amelioration of their condition can be better effected by helping the education of the community. A free boarding home

for the depressed classes in Trivandrum or rather in the important educational centres of Travancore, the establishment of scholarships, say one or two foreign scholarships to such of the depressed class members who have succeeded in obtaining general education necessary for proceeding to Europe, Japan, or any other foreign countries, such are the lines on which the condition of the depressed classes may be improved. It may also be necessary for them to have good healthy house sites near towns. Now the concessions shown in far away outlying village parts by way of relaxation of pudent rules for the assignment of lands and all that cannot be of much utility to the depressed classes for the reason that they are labourers and that they cannot get labour in out of the way places. So suitable lands have to be acquired near the town sites. What is the meaning of saying that there should be houses built for them when they have no lands? First of all lands may be acquired. Then it is time enough for houses to be built on them. Suitable sites have to be acquired for the use of the depressed classes. Then only the other items in the programme for the amelioration of their condition can be worked.

Mr. M. N. Narayana Menon: ആറായിരം ഏക്കറിൽ അധികം ഭൂമി അധികൃതർക്കായി പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ?

Mr. M. Govindan: എനിക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. ഒരിഞ്ചു സ്ഥലംപോലും പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഫൈനാൻഷ്യൽ സെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഇല്ല.

With regard to the depressed classes, the treatment of the subject in the Financial Secretary's report is absolutely step-motherly. Sir, there, the depressed classes instead of even occupying one paragraph comes within the paragraph of co-operation and there are three sentences devoted to the depressed classes. I submit that this is a very serious problem in Travancore and we are not paying due attention to it. 17 lakhs of people are condemned as untouchables. Thanks are due to the Government for the recent communique declaring the Government's determination not to spend money from the public funds where untouchability is recognised. But I am very sorry to notice a notification very recently published after the above communique saying that Government intend constructing a satram for depressed classes at Cape Comorin and a site is going to be acquired for that. If there is no untouchability in the State, where is the necessity for another satram specially for untouchables? I have no objection for building another satram also at Cape Comorin. It may promote the